DEDICATION SERVICE

OF THE

First Congregational United Church Of Christ

CREECH ROAD

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 1977

DONALD INGRAM, Minister

CONGRATULATIONS TO

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

and to

REVEREND DONALD R. INGRAM, Pastor

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU

From

THE INGRAM FAMILY

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GREETINGS AND PASTOR'S MESSAGE

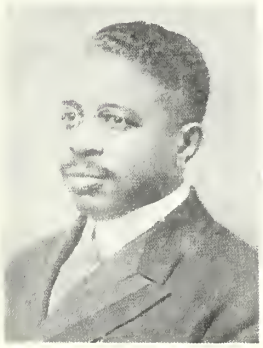
Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus. Truly we give thanks and glory to God for His Bountiful Blessings. To be able to dedicate our Church to God is the results of hard work, prayer and much faith. We thank ALL who have worked in some way, small or great, to make this day possible. We would not have realized our goal, had it not been for God and you. Thank God also for our friends who have stood by us with their prayers and generous love gifts. Praise the Lord!

Now as we go forward from this day of dedication, let us do so with much love in our hearts for one another and all humanity. Let us purpose in our hearts to be more faithful to God and His Church. Let us give our ALL toward seeing the will of God done here on earth as it is in heaven.

Yours in Christ,

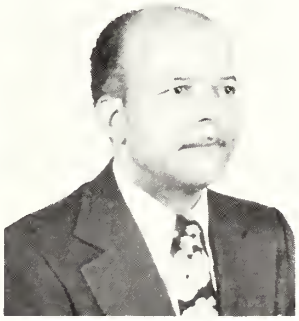
D. R. INGRAM, Pastor

Former Ministers



REV. PERFECT R. DeBERRY
1910-1925

REVEREND E. C. LAWRENCE
1932-1951



REV. HOWARD CUNNINGHAM
1951-1972

REVEREND J. J. MOTT
1867

REVEREND GEORGE S. SMITH
1877-1900

REVEREND JENNINGS
1901-1902

REVEREND H. E. KING

REVEREND T. M. NIXON

REVEREND F. B. MALLARD

REVEREND D. J. FLYNN
1926

REVEREND T. C. HAMANS
Interim Pastor
June, 1972-December, 1972

GIFT, CY KING

1867 1977

A FEW HISTORICAL FACTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

One hundred and ten years ago the American Missionary Association of New York City, established in Raleigh, Corner Manly and South Streets, the First Congregational Church under the leadership of Mr. Fisk P. Brewer, who was head of the A. M. A. school. This A. M. A. school in later years gave birth to the Washington Graded School for the City of Raleigh in which the city began its first graded school for Negro people with only seven grades. The first principal of this school was Miss Esther P. Hayes, who taught in the old chapel.

The organized church was founded in 1867, and had for its first pastor, the Reverend J. J. Mott. The charter members were: Henry C. Jones, Henry Snipes, Thomas Mabry Holland Pope, Jordan Farrington, and Mesdames Scott. Lucy Dunston, Emma Banham, Ida Mitchell, Lucy Ransome, Hannah Foushe and Lucy Fiskes.

From its beginning until 1877, the pastors and teachers were white men and women from the north; but, beginning with this date the church called the Reverend George S. Smith — 1877, as its first Negro pastor. Reverend Smith was a graduate of Atlanta University and led the little congregational group out into the limelight where it became one of the most popular and outstanding institutions in the city. At the close of his pastorate, Dr. Curtis (white) became the third pastor and served us for many years Following Dr. Curtis, the Reverends Jennings. (1901-1902) H. E. King, T. M. Nixon and F. B. Mallard served short but colorful terms as pastors here.

Reverend Perfect R. DeBerry was elected as the eighth pastor. (1910-1925). Under the amicable personality, the church had phenomenal numerical growth. The church membership quadrupled, and the church had the first charter of Negro Boy Scouts in the state, also the first Day Nursery and Trade School in the city. The church reached its peak in growth of a church enrollment of approximately (410) members.

During this period, 1914, the church was rebuilt, pews pipe organ and electric lights were installed. Very little changes have been made in the physical plant since Mr DeBerry left.

After Reverend DeBerry's resignation, 1926, the Reverend D. J. Flynn became the ninth pastor. He served for only a few years, but added much to the spiritual growth of this church. In 1932 the Reverend E. C. Lawrence became pastor and served for nineteen years. It was during this time that the church cleared the indebtedness on the parsonage and secured the deed to same from the New York office. But the membership declined greatly. In 1951, the Reverend Howard Cunningham became our eleventh pastor. When he accepted the pastorate, the church enrollment had dropped to 90 in number. He served 21 years and the church enrollment climbed to 170 including the children. Our present pastor, Reverend D. R. Ingram came to us January, 1973. Our membership at present is 167.

The Raleigh City Urban Renewal and Planning Commissioners requested and forced us from our original location, on the corner of South and Manly Streets and the old church building was torn down in November, 1976. The land is now slated for a building to become the offices for the N. C. A. E.

The ground breaking on this site for this building was October 24, 1976. We held our first worship services here July 3, 1977, in honor and thanks to our God.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday Evening — 7:00 O'clock
AUGUST 24, 1977
OPEN HOUSE

Thursday Evening — 7:00 O'clock

AUGUST 25, 1977
WORSHIP SERVICE
Visiting Pastor, Reverend D. A. Peace and Congregation

Friday Evening — 7:00 O'clock

AUGUST 26, 1977
COVERED DISH DINNER

Sunday Morning — 11:00 O'clock

AUGUST 28, 1977
DEDICATION OF CHURCH
Reverend J. Taylor Stanley

Sunday Afternoon — 5:00 O'clock

DEDICATION OF ORGAN
The Reverend Howard Cunningham
Mr. Ernest Massenburg, Guest Organist

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Guest Participants

REVEREND STANLEY

REVEREND INGRAM

REVEREND CUNNINGHAM

Reverend J. Taylor Stanley, Superintendent (retired) of the Convention of the South, received Bachelor of Theology from School of Religion of Howard University, Washington, D. C.; honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity by Elon College in 1977; served as pastor in Nashville, Tennessee, Wilmington, Dudley, and at High Point, North Carolina during which time a new church was erected. "A History of the Convention of the South," by J. T. Stanley is now being published and should soon be off the press. He is married to Kathryn M. Stanley and the father of three sons and two daughters.

Reverend D. A. Peace, minister of Laodicea United Church of Christ. A native of Durham, North Carolina. Studied at American Bible College, Elon College, Union Training Institute, and Shaw University, receiving Diploma in Religious Education, Certificate of Theology. Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity Degrees. During his six years in Raleigh he has been actively involved in civic, religious, and community affairs. He is married to the former Dora Williams and the father of three sons and two daughters.

Ernest Massenburg, a Raleigh native, holds the A.M. and M.A. Degrees from North Carolina Central University, the S.M.M. degree from Union Theological Seminary, School of Sacred Music, New York City. Has studied at the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) and Indiana University. He has been heard in recitals in South Carolina, North Carolina, Michigan, New Jersey and New York. Presently, he serves as the Organist-Choir Master of the Saint Mark's United Methodist Church in Brooklyn, New York.

Reverend Donald R. Ingram is a native of High Point, North Carolina. After High School, he entered North Carolina Central University where he pursued a degree program in music and later Business Administration. His trial sermon was preached at Pilgrim United Church of Christ in High Point on December 31, 1967 and he served in the United States Army in 1969-1970 stationed in the Republic of South Viet Nam. In January, 1973, he was called to pastor the First Congregational United Church of Christ. Married to the former Miss Carolyn Rogers of Oxford, North Carolina and they are the parents of two sons, Donald, Jr., and Eric.

HOWARD CUNNINGHAM

Born and educated in the public schools of South Carolina, completed his college education at Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina. He received theological training from Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. Further study was pursued at Morehouse College in Atlanta and New York University.

In 1951, Howard Cunningham became the minister of First Congregational Church in Raleigh, which, at that time, had a membership of only 60. Through the years, the membership grew to 170. There arose a nead for focus on a building program, which Reverend Cunningham initiated.

Other new challenges and opportunities secured by him for the congregation were successful. The most rewarding and far-reaching has been the integrated Daily Vacation Bible School project sponsored in the early fifties by the First Congregational Church and the United Church. This project today incorporates Davie Street Presbyterian, Pullen Memorial Baptist, as well as the founding churches.

During the summer vacation period, Cunningham initiated an exchange of ministers and choirs program to be carried on by the United Church and the First Congregational Church, and also a Race Relations Sunday to perpetuate brotherhood and unity among the members of the two congregations.

Under his leadership, the Congregational Church was able to begin the building program toward a structure that would be able to meet the needs of a growing congregation.

DEDICATION

of The First Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)

August 28, 1977

Sunday School ..... 9:45 A.M.

Morning Worship ..... 11:00 A.M.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE ORGAN PRELUDE – "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" ..... *Bach*

THE CHORAL INTROIT – "Breathe On Me, Breath of God"

THE CALL TO WORSHIP ..... Reverend D. R. Ingram

THE GLORIA PATRI

THE HYMN OF PRAISE – "O For A Thousand Tongues" ..... No. 223

THE INVOCATION (In Unison)

O God our Father
Bless us this hour
That we might be one in Thee
And Thee in us
For the glory of Thy Church
In Jesus Name – Amen

THE LORD' PRAYER – Chanted

THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURE ..... Deacon Willie Smith

THE ANTHEM – "Now Let Every Tongue Adore Thee"

THE PASTORAL PRAYER ..... Reverend D. R. Ingram

THE CHORAL RESPONSE – "Father Almighty" ..... No. 333

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON ..... Mrs. Natalie Perkins

THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY – "I'm Going To Sing" ..... *Shaw & Parker*

THE DOXOLOGY

THE RECOGNITION OF VISITORS ..... Mrs. Beulah Mason

THE HYMN OF PREPARATION – "Sing Praise To God" ..... No. 20

PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER ..... Mr. Alfredo Hicks

THE HYMN OF MEDITATION – "O Master, Let Me Walk" ..... No. 418

THE DEDICATION ADDRESS – ..... Reverend J. Taylor Stanley

THE HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP – "Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation" 263

DEDICATION OF CHURCH

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

Minister We set apart this house to the worship of the living and true God, and to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation We devote it to the preaching of the gospel of the grace of God for the conversion of sinners, and to the education of Christians in a knowledge of spiritual truth, in all the activities of Christian life.

Minister Here shall the incense of prayer and praise ascend to God. Here shall the ordinances of the Lord's house be sacredly observed.

Congregation Here shall the Word of God, which liveth and adideth forever, be sounded out for the salvation of the perishing, and shine as a perpetual light to guide God's children through the night of time to the land of everlasting light.

Minister And may God graciously accept this offering of a house in His name – an offering made by grateful hearts and willing hands – and bless every heart that shares in this Gift.

Congregation May multitudes here be born to God, so that when all these here today shall have gone to their eternal home, others will take up the service until Jesus comes and all His are gathered home.

Minister To the glory of God, our Father, by whose favor we have builded; to the honor of Jesus the Christ, the Son of the living God and our Saviour; to the praise of the Holy Spirit, source of life and light.

Congregation We dedicate this house.

Minister For worship in prayer and song; for the ministry of the Word; for the observance of the holy ordinances.

Congregation We dedicate this house.

Minister To help of the needy; to the promotion of brotherhood; to the extension of the kingdom through the whole wide world.

Congregation We dedicate this house.

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

And now "establish thou the work of our hands upon us. Yea, the work of our hands, establish thou it." And to thy blessed name, O God, whose we are, and whom we serve, be honor and glory everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

REMARKS

THE CLOSING HYMN – "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord" ..... No. 269

THE BENEDICTION

THE AMEN

In Appreciation

The following firms played a large part in guiding the planning and building of our new Church structure. Singly and collectively they extend congratulations and best wishes.

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ORGAN DEDICATION SERVICE
THE REVEREND HOWARD CUNNINGHAM, *Minister*
MR. ERNEST MASSENBURG, *Guest Organist*
5:00 O'clock

THE INVOCATION ..... Reverend Howard Cunningham

THE HYMN

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

Minister: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.
Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary:
People: Praise Him in the firmament of His Power.
Minister: Praise Him for His mighty acts:
People: Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.
Minister. Honor and majesty are before Him:
People: Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.
Minister: Give unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people:
People: Give unto the Lord glory and strength.
Minister: Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name.
People: Bring an offering, and come unto His courts. .
Minister: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:
People: Fear before Him, all the earth.
Minister: Beloved in Christ: For-as-much as God has put into the hearts of His people to build this instrument of music as an aid to our worship of Him in this place, it is right that we should now dedicate it to Him and set it apart of the use for which it is designed. To the glory of God, Author of all goodness and beauty, Giver of all skill of mind and hand:
People: We dedicate this organ.
Minister: In faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, who has inspired men to offer in His praise their best in music and song:
People: We dedicate this organ.
Minister: Moved by the Holy Spirit, our Guide in the worship of God and our Helper in the understanding of truth and beauty.
People: We dedicate this organ.
Mniister: To kindle the flame of devotion, that the people who here assemble may worship the Father in spirit and in truth:
People: We dedicate this organ.
Minister: To bear up the melody of music in such wise that people may go forth from this place with high resolve to do human good.
People: We dedicate this organ.
Minister: To comfort the sorrowful and cheer the faint, to bring purity and peace into human hearts, and to lead all who hear it in the way of spiritual dedication.
People: We dedicate this organ.

PRAYER

I

VARIATION ON HYMN TUNES

"NUN DANKET" — 29 ..... *Cruger*
"WACHET AUF" — 24 ..... *Bach*
"ST. AGNES" — 225 ..... *Whitney*
"HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION" — 199 ..... *Murphee*

II

"ADAGIO" ..... *Albinoni*
"PRELUDE AND FUGUE IN "A" MINOR" ..... *J. S. Bach*

III

"TOCCATA" Op. — 59 ..... *Max Reger*
"FIRST SYMPHONY" ..... *L. Vierne*

Vivace
Finale

Minister: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN — Page 4

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A Door to the Glory of God and in appreciation of the Church's Ministry by Pearl Wortham Thompson.

A Pew to the Glory of God and in Appreciation of the Church's Ministry by A. J. and Catherine Turner.

Guest Book Table refurbished in Appreciation of the Church's Ministry by Frances Hinton.

Front Parlor furnished in Loving Memory of Mrs. Geraldine Jones Cheek by daughter, Trevaughn Cheek and aunt, Dorothy Trevan Brinson.

Refurbished Bench in Front Chapel to the Glory of God by Lillie J. Taylor.

Refurbished pulpit in Front Chapel to the Glory of God by Dorothy T. Wilson.

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We wish to express our special gratitude and thanks to all who have

contributed in anyway to help make our program a success.

THE DEDICATION COMMITTEE

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his grade!

2

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of thy name.

3

Glory to God and praise and love
Be ever, ever given
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heaven.

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1

Sing praise to God who reigns above, The God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love, The God of our salvation;
With healing balm y soul he fills, And every faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory.

2

What God's almighty power hath made, His gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade His watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of his might, Lo! all is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory.

3

Then all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises,
That men may hear the grateful song My voice unwearied raises;
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, Both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.

4

O ye who name Christ's holy name, Give God all praise and glory;
All ye who own his power, proclaim Aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from his throne, The Lord is God, and he
alone: Tod God all priase and glory.

O MASTER, LET ME WALK WITH THEE

1

O Master, let me walk with thee In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me thy secret, help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.

2

Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear wining word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, And guide them in the homeward way.

3

In hope that sends a shining ray Far down the future's broadening way.
In peace that only thou canst give, With thee, O Master, let me live.

CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION

1

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and corner stone,
Chose of the Lord and precious, Binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever, And her confidence alone.

2

To this temple, where we call thee, Come, O Lord of hosts, today!
With thy wonted lovingkindness Hear thy people as they pray;
And thy fullest benediction Shed within its walls alway.

3

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants What they ask of thee to gain:
What they gain from thee forever With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in thy glory Evermore with thee to reign.

4

Laud and honor to the Father, Laud and honor to the Son, Laud and honor to the Spirit, Ever Three and ever One; One in might, and One in glory, While unending ages run.

I LOVE THY KINGDOM, LORD

I love thy kingdom, Lord, The house of thine abode,
The church our blest Redeemer saved With his own precious blood.

2

I love thy Church, O God; Her walls before thee stand.
Dear as the apple of thine eye, And graven on thy hand.

3

Sure as thy truth shall last, To Zion shall be given.
The brightest glories earth can yeld, And brighter bliss of heaven.

NOW LET EVERY TONGUE ADORE THEE

Now let every tongue adore thee! Let men with angels sing before thee!
Let harps and cymbals now unite! All thy gates with pear are glorious,
Where we partake through faith victorious, With angels round thy throne of light. No mortal eye hath seen, No mortal ear hath heard Sunch wondrous things, Therefore with joy our song shall soar In praise to God forevermore.

JESUS, THE VERY THOUGHT OF THEE

Jesus, the very thought of thee, With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far thy face to see, And in thy presence rest.

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

How firm a foundation, ye saings of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word! What more can he say than to you he hath said, To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled? To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom his world rejoices,
Who, from our mothers' arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.